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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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April 4, 1983

TOVA REGISTRY
FILE: 10-7

Executive Registry
83-1878

The Honorable William J. Casey Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D. C. 20505 DD/A Registry

Dear Bill:

Recently I have become aware of a problem which I would like you to help me solve. My principal assistant on the staff for military affairs and space activity, Dennis P. Sharon, does not currently have a compartmented clearance although he does hold a Defense Department Top Secret clearance.

Mr. Sharon is a retired Air Force Colonel who served as Minority Counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from November of 1978 until January of 1981.

As you would expect, he held compartmented clearances for several years in those capacities. I am aware that a Memorandum of Understanding, signed in June of 1979, and some revised guidelines issued by the Carter Administration state that no personal staff members shall be granted compartmented clearances. However, in this case, I would strongly urge you to make a one-time exemption to these existing guidelines.

Denny is my right-hand man on Armed Services Committee matters and it is very important to me that he be exposed to the compartmented information which that committee receives. His unique background and his prior service as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee staff for me create the very real prospect that I can use him both in my capacity as Chairman of that committee as well as in my Senate Armed Services Committee role.

Obviously, I would not advise a blanket exemption nor a routine issuance of compartmented clearances to personal staff. However, in this case, I think it is appropriate and necessary. I would appreciate it if you would put the process in motion to reinstate a compartmented clearance for Mr. Sharon.

With best wishes,

Barry Goldwater